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66-84940

17 November 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Meeting with Clark Clifford,  
18 November 1966

The following items might be worth discussing with  
Mr. Clifford:

1. Agendas for the President's Board meetings.  
(See Tab A.)
2. Excessive reporting requirements. (See Tab B.)
3. Whether reports from other agencies should not be  
routed through the DCI. (See last paragraph of Tab A and  
second paragraph of Tab B.)
4. What is the status of the Presidential letter of  
authority, draft of which was sent to Clifford on 10 October  
1966?

/s/ John A. Bross

JOHN A. BROSS  
D/DCI/NIPE

Attachments

Tabs A and B

cc: DDCI

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PFIAB AGENDAS

The agendas for the bimonthly meetings of the Board are almost always done at the last moment. (This time we have had a little more advance notice than usual since we have been discussing possible agenda items for several days, in preparation for the 30 November-1 December meeting.)

It is hard to escape the impression that the agendas are put together in this way without any consistent purpose.

Better responses could be prepared and a lot of last-minute scurrying around avoided if the Board could do a little more forward-looking on its agendas. There seems no reason why they could not at the end of one meeting consider what might be brought up at the next one. (Obviously, briefings on current subjects which might come up in the interim would be special cases.)

It would also be useful if the DCI were aware of agenda items which directly concern other members of the community. As it is, these are kept a dark secret.

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REPORTS REQUIRED BY PFIAB

A. We do an annual report on all CIA activities and another on coordination of the U. S. effort. While the first of these takes an enormous amount of time on the part of various people all through the Agency, we can hardly object to being required to make such a report. One can have legitimate doubts as to what attention is given to it by the Board, but the requirement would appear to be unassailable.

State and DIA are required to make similar reports.

Mr. McCone asked that these be routed through him as DCI, especially so that he could review them before preparing his coordination report. This proposal was rejected in a letter signed by Clifford.

B. Although attempts have been made from time to time to get the Board to drop its requirements for numerous other voluminous periodic reports and to be allowed to include such reporting in the annual document, these efforts have met with no success. The pattern has been that every time members of the Board make a trip, or in certain other cases, a series of recommendations result which require written responses. No sooner have these responses been made than we receive an acknowledgment and a new date for making a further report. (In this connection there has been a ray of hope lately. The responses to recommendations resulting from the trip

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to [redacted] made by Gordon Gray and Pat Coyne resulted in an acknowledgment along with a statement to the effect that we should report further as we believed desirable--without setting a definite requirement for doing so. If this procedure could be applied across the board, we would save many hundreds of man hours.)

The outstanding requirements for periodic reporting in addition to the annual reports are as follows:

1. The Nation's Counterintelligence Posture.

This resulted from a recommendation of the Joint Study Group.

The first response was made in 1961. There was a requirement for a semiannual report, which was changed to an annual basis in early 1965 at the then DCI's request. The next report is due the first of January 1967--about 5 1/2 years after the first one was made.

2. Audio Surveillance and Countermeasures.

This goes back to the middle of 1962. Three semiannual reports were made and then the subject was broken down into about three parts. One of these reports was actually required every two or three months but these have now been superseded by an annual report from the Technical Surveillance Countermeasures Committee.

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One of the parts was on the installation of secure

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[redacted] The first of these was made in January 1964 at which time a semiannual requirement was established. The seventh of these is due in January.

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[redacted] were required but this one seems to have been laid to rest.

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[redacted] This has been a semiannual requirement since the middle of 1961.

4. Recommendations on Southeast Asia and Far East.

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These were [redacted] recommendations which followed the trip by Clifford and Coyne [redacted] They involved a number of complicated assignments--some single agency, some joint and some by the DCI in coordination with other

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[redacted]

5. Middle East.

We responded in October to six recommendations stemming from Dr. Langer's trip. These have not yet been acknowledged.

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Hopefully the acknowledgment might follow the [redacted]

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acknowledgment mentioned above; i. e., we won't have a continuing requirement.

C. There are from time to time special reporting requirements that come up. These include such things as a report on the intelligence performance in connection with the Cuban missile crisis; responses to allegations of failure to predict the Berlin Wall and a coup in Syria, etc.

Currently we are coping with responses to "gaps and deficiencies" solicited from State and Defense. Coyne broke these requirements down into areas covered by various panels of the Board and gave us compilations for six panels. (There are 12 panels and it is not clear whether they will expect written responses from us for all 12 or, indeed, all six.) We have prepared and presented memoranda on the alleged deficiencies of coverage on Latin America, with a final wrap-up paper to come. The one on the Far East is due next week. We estimate that 240-250 man hours will have been expended in preparing and presenting the Latin American response, and 440-450 man hours will be required for the Far East one.

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